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Jabir bin Abdullah The Example of Sacrifice

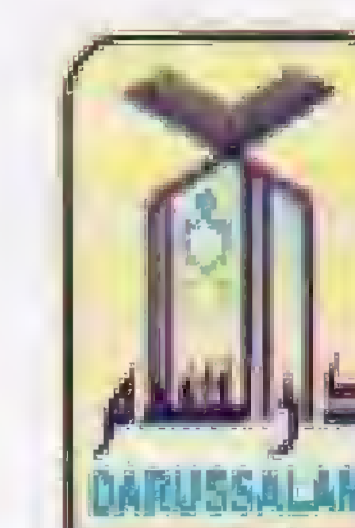
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In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.” (33:23)

Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*', to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

The story you are about to read, '*Jabir bin Abdullah – The Example of Sacrifice*', is an inspiring story of the life of one of the Muslim who should be followed. He supported his seven sisters and sacrificed his happiness for their welfare. He accepted Islam while he was still very young. He lost his father but found brothers of Islam who helped him in supporting his

family. In spite of the dire food he had, he made a meal for the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions on the day when they were digging the trench. When the Prophet ﷺ asked him why he did not marry a virgin to be happier in his life, he explained that he preferred his sisters' happiness to his own. He married an experienced widow who would be more capable to care for his sisters.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We, at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim youth, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our youth. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allāh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

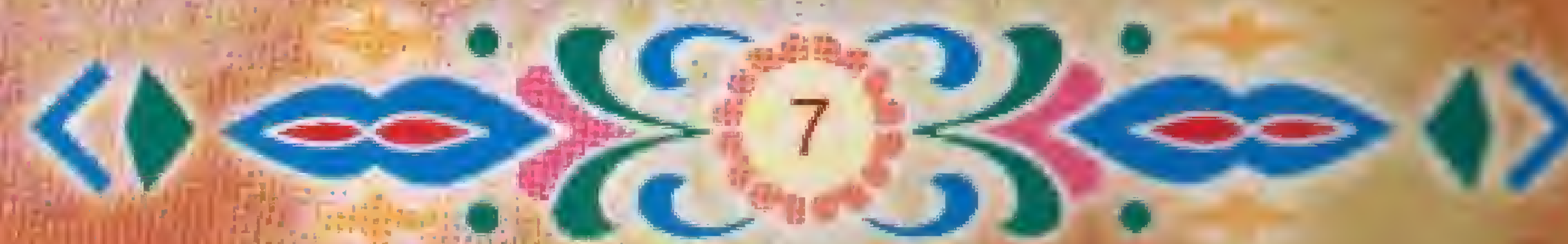
Foreword

The Hijaz region of the Arabian Peninsula was the centre of trade and civilization for the Arabs before and during the Islamic era. Makkah was a very important city. Arabs from all over the Arabian Peninsula came to Makkah to visit the Ka'bah and trade with its inhabitants.

Another important town of the Arabian Peninsula was called Yathrib. Two major tribes inhabited Yathrib. These tribes were Al-Aws and Al-Khazraj. In addition, there were three Jewish tribes living in the suburbs of the town. Although the two major tribes were relatives, they were involved in endless wars. Some of these wars were waged for very trivial causes and others were plotted by the Jews in order to keep the two tribes weak and under their control.

The Jews were always threatening the Arabs of the close appearance of a Prophet in the Arabian Peninsula. They told them that they would follow him and overpower them.

The Arabs of Yathrib remembered these



threats very well. They visited Makkah every year and when they heard of the appearance of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, a group of them met him and believed in the message that he was preaching. They promised the Prophet ﷺ that they would come the following year with the chiefs of their tribes and make an agreement to protect Islam and its followers. This meant that the Muslims would eventually migrate to Yathrib (Al-Madinah) and be able to spread the message of Islam.

Mus'ab bin 'Umair ؓ was sent by the Prophet ﷺ to Al-Madinah to teach the people about the true religion of Allâh. So, Islam spread in Al-Madinah peacefully.

In Makkah, the Muslims received a great deal of oppression at the hands of the pagans, who did not want to give up their false gods that their forefathers had worshipped and to accept the true religion of Allâh. At the same time they were greatly angered when many people turned to Islam and abandoned their false deities.

The Prophet ﷺ asked his Companions to leave Makkah to Al-Madinah so that they could find protection against the oppression of the Quraish.

Some time later, when the Muslims settled in Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ, also left to join the rest of the Muslims in Al-Madinah.

In Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ received a warm welcome and a new Islamic State was established marking a strong bond of brotherhood between the *Muhajireen* (migrants) and the *Ansar* (supporters).

At that time, our hero Jabir bin Abdullah ؓ was still a young boy. He witnessed the day when all the people of Al-Madinah went outside the town to welcome the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ. The boy became a young man and a prominent Companion of the Prophet ﷺ. He joined his brothers in Islam in all their efforts to spread Islam.

Let us read the splendid story of this young man, which reflects an example of sacrifice, in spite of all difficulties, and steadfastness in faith.

Abdul Basit Ahmad



Introduction

Population of Al-Madinah

Al-Madinah (the Illuminated City), was known as Yathrib before the Prophet ﷺ changed its name, there in lived two major relative tribes: Al-Aws and Al-Khazraj, along with some small tribes and clans. There were also the Jews who lived in the suburbs of the city. The two major tribes were engaged in constant wars against each other. These wars continued until a short time before the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions migrated to Yathrib. After shedding blood and wasting resources for many years, the two tribes, through the good efforts of some wise men, reached a peace agreement.

The Jews in Yathrib

Three Jewish clans, namely Banu An-Nadheer, Banu Quraithah and Banu Qaynuqa' settled in Yathrib. They had come to it from Iraq a long time before the rise of Islam. They followed a forged version of the Taurât (the sacred book revealed to the Prophet Mûsâ عليه

السلام). They mainly worked as merchants and usurers. Being strangers in the land and for fear of facing a unified front of Arabs, they kept adding fuel to the fire of war that the inhabitants of the city were entangled in. In addition, they earned much of their resources as a result of the continuation of this war. They were selling arms to the fighting parties and lending them money for high interests. They, drawing on the true parts of their Taurât, already had knowledge of a Prophet that would appear in the Arabian Peninsula. They even knew the signs that distinguished the promised Prophet. When any clashes took place between them and the people of Yathrib, they would threaten them that they would follow the coming Prophet and overcome them as Mûsâ overcame the Pharaoh. However, these same Jews were filled with grudge when they became certain that the Prophet was not one from among them. Although the Prophet ﷺ made mutual support agreements with them, they did not respect any terms and plotted to kill him. They even conspired with the chiefs of Makkah and

supported them in their war against the Muslims. Therefore, the Muslims had no choice but to expel them out of their city or even wage a war against them until they were completely subdued.

The people of Yathrib and the Call of Islam

Makkah was the capital of Al-Hijaz region before the advent of Islam. All Arabs from all parts of the Arabian Peninsula visited the city to make pilgrimage to the Ka'bah, to trade with the people of Makkah and to attend annual festivals of the Arabs held during those days.

Thirteen years after proclamation of Islam, a group of people from Yathrib visited Makkah. The Prophet ﷺ approached them and called them to accept Islam and provide him with necessary protection in order to propagate the message of Islam. The group accepted the call and promised to come with their chiefs the next year to conclude an agreement with the Prophet ﷺ.

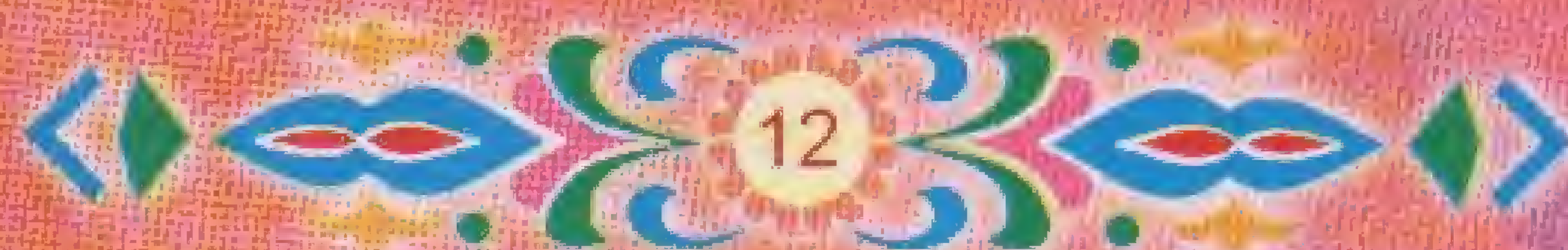
The same group of men began calling their people to Islam and met tremendous success. The next year, seventy-three men and women

including the hero of this story met the Prophet ﷺ secretly and agreed with him to protect him and his Companions inside their city.

Immediately after making this agreement, the oppressed Muslims began migrating to Yathrib. Four months later, the Prophet ﷺ and his close Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ, left to Al-Madinah to join both the migrants and the supporters.

Establishing the new Islamic State

As soon as the Prophet ﷺ arrived in Al-Madinah, he maintained ties of Islamic brotherhood between the migrants and the supporters. Hence, tribal or blood kinship ties became of no importance. It was Faith that combined all Muslims together as one unit. To foster this spirit of solidarity, the supporters gave some of their property to their migrant brothers to help them resuming their life in their city. The Prophet ﷺ also urged the Muslims to build a mosque which was meant to be a place for prayers, a school for teaching the Muslims the principles of Islam and a base from where



In the Orchards of Al-Madinah

Jabir bin Abdullah was the only son of Abdullah bin Haram. Abdullah felt very happy to have Jabir after having several daughters. He brought him up as best as he could to make him a man of honour and dignity.

The boy spent most of his time amongst the beautiful gardens of Yathrib. Beautiful palm trees and colorful roses were all around. He used to listen to the singing of birds and chase beautiful butterflies.

Jabir's father was a farmer. Jabir would always accompany him to the farm. At the farm, Jabir would feel that he was at the heart of nature. He would also feel a sense of calmness and satisfaction whenever he was in the orchard owned by his father. The sound of water coming from between rocks and taking courses under palm trees added to the beauty of nature and tranquillity of Jabir's soul.

Jabir used to spend most of the day at the farm. He often spent the time thinking about the

things that he saw around him. Whenever he tasted the sweet dates, he would ask himself a big question, to which he had no answer. 'How could a tree give such a sweet fruit?' Many thoughts raced through his little mind now and then. 'Who created these trees? Who made the dates, grapes and figs so sweet and who made this huge sky?' His father always told him that Allâh is the Only Creator of everything.

Jabir and Islam

Jabir would see his father standing calmly and peacefully and whispering some words. He would also see him performing some acts that Jabir could not understand. When Jabir would ask his father what he was doing, his father would tell him that he was praying to Allâh.

One day, Jabir's father was sitting under a high palm tree. He asked Jabir to sit beside him. He gently told his son that he was going to leave on a long journey, and he would like Jabir to take care of the farm while he was away. However, Jabir told his father that he too wanted to travel with him. His father told him that the journey was too long and it would be



The Journey to Makkah

Jabir's father was going to travel to Makkah along with about seventy-three men and women. They all set off on the journey to meet the Prophet ﷺ whom they believed in and followed the message he preached to them. Jabir was quite shocked to see that their caravan of camels did not carry any goods or weapons.

Makkah was a famous trade center. A caravan heading to Makkah should normally carry goods. The purpose of this journey seemed to be different. Jabir asked his father what the purpose of the journey was. His father looked at him and said: "You will know later on."

After ten days and nights, the camels crossed the deserts and mountains that Jabir had never seen before. The caravan stopped at the outskirts of Makkah. A messenger was sent to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ set a time and a place to meet with the people from Yathrib.

Meeting with the Prophet ﷺ

At the set time, the Prophet ﷺ went to meet the people with his uncle Al-Abbas. There, for

the very first time Jabir saw the Prophet ﷺ shaking hands with the men from Yathrib.

When Jabir saw the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, his heart was filled with affection and love for him. He listened carefully to the commandments given by the Prophet ﷺ to his tribesmen. Although he was too young, he was somewhat aware of the strong bond that the Prophet ﷺ made with his tribesmen. After the meeting was over with the Prophet ﷺ, the people of Yathrib headed back to their city.

"Who is that man, father?" Jabir asked. His father replied:

"He is the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, Jabir. Allâh, Who gives us water and Who makes every seed grow into the big trees that give us fruits, has sent him to guide us to the worship of the One Allâh and to abandon worship of stone idols. He is the Messenger of the Creator of all these stars and the One Who keeps them balanced."

Jabir whispered something that his father could not understand. He asked him: "What is it Jabir?" Jabir replied:



The New Islamic State

People of Yathrib welcome the Prophet ﷺ

The day had arrived when the Prophet ﷺ was expected to come to and live in Yathrib. It was morning time, the people of Yathrib gathered outside the city to meet the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ. They waited until noontime but the two men did not arrive.

Jabir ؓ got worried and thought that the Prophet ﷺ would not come. His father took hold of his hand and sighed: 'Let us go back home, son.' Jabir ؓ let his father's hand go and refused to go home. Suddenly he heard a man from the top of a hill announcing the arrival of the Prophet ﷺ. Jabir shouted joyfully:

"Father! the Prophet ﷺ has arrived."

He and the other Muslims, both migrants and supporters received the Prophet ﷺ with warm welcome. Jabir ؓ walked beside the Prophet's camel to Yathrib.

Keeping close to the Prophet ﷺ

The whole crowd was filled with happiness and joy. They began glorifying Allâh and

cheering with joy as never before. Two big drops of tears rolled down Jabir's cheeks. His heart was filled with joy. He wished very much that the Prophet ﷺ would be a guest in his house. Jabir ؓ really wanted to spend his time close to the Prophet ﷺ.

Since the day the Prophet ﷺ had arrived in Yathrib, Jabir ؓ spent as much time as he could close to the Prophet ﷺ. The first thing the Prophet ﷺ did was to change the name of the city from Yathrib to Al-Madinah and to join the hands of migrants and supporters in Islamic brotherhood under the banner of Islam. The Muslims had together built a new mosque. Jabir ؓ participated in building the first mosque of Islam. He always went to the mosque with his father to perform prayers and learn more about Islam. As days went by, Jabir ؓ was growing up under the guidance of the Prophet ﷺ. The Muslims of Al-Madinah and Makkah worked together as Muslim brothers and sisters. This helped them to establish their Islamic State in Al-Madinah. The people of Al-Madinah were very helpful towards the Muslims who migrated from Makkah. They gave them some

The Orphan

Having lost the battle of Badr, the chiefs of the Quraish went back to Makkah deeply saddened by their loss. A number of their chiefs were killed in the battle and others were taken as prisoners of war. It was not long before the pagans planned to wage another war against the Muslims.

Some chiefs of the Quraish met Abu Sufyan and asked him to spend the money they got from the caravan which escaped the Muslims' capture to prepare for another battle against the Muslims. They wanted to revenge themselves against the Muslims. Abu Sufyan agreed to their request and bought all the weapons and supplies necessary for the army.

A heavily armed army of three thousand soldiers marched toward Al-Madinah. This time the pagans were determined to destroy Islam altogether. The army of the Quraish arrived at a place called Uhud Mount.

The Muslims discussed this great threat to their faith and state. Some of them advised the

Prophet ﷺ to keep inside the city and defend it against the aggressors. However, others were zealous to fight the pagans in an open battle. They feared that the pagans might think that the Muslims were afraid to fight them in an open battle. After much discussion, the Prophet ﷺ agreed to fight the pagans in an open battle. He prepared himself and ordered the Muslims to prepare for the coming battle.

Jabir ؓ wanted to take part in the battle this time. He asked his father to allow him to take part in this battle, but once again his father told him to stay in Al-Madinah with his family. Jabir's father also told him that he felt that he would not come back from this battle and it was best for him to stay with his mother and sisters and look after them.

Jabir ؓ partakes in Uhud Battle

However, Jabir ؓ was very sad to hear these words from his father. He could not bear the idea of losing this chance to take part in the battle. He immediately went to the Prophet ﷺ and asked him to allow him to take part in the battle. The Prophet ﷺ was sure that the young man was strong enough to take part in the



The Prophet ﷺ Passes Away

The Farewell Pilgrimage

In the ninth year after migration to Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ invited his Companions to perform pilgrimage. About one hundred thousand Muslims accompanied the Prophet ﷺ to Makkah to perform pilgrimage. Jabir ؓ accompanied the other Muslims to Makkah. He was dressed in two white garments and performed the rites of pilgrimage. During the pilgrimage, some Verses of the Qur'ân were revealed to the Prophet ﷺ. Those Verses implied that the Prophet ﷺ would leave this world shortly.

Jabir ؓ listened carefully to the final words revealed to the Prophet ﷺ:

“This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.” (5:3)

The Prophet ﷺ also addressed his Companions at Mina. He told them that they should abstain from taking usury. He said to

them that all human beings were equal and that the most honourable to Allâh was the most pious and righteous amongst them. He foretold that he might leave them after this year.

Like many other Muslims, Jabir ؓ knew that the life of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ was about to come to an end.

When they returned from the pilgrimage, the Prophet ﷺ fell ill. Some days later he passed away like any other human being. Jabir ؓ felt the huge loss. All the Muslims were deeply saddened by the death of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ. They wept for the Prophet ﷺ who taught them the real meaning of life. Some Muslims were not believing that the Prophet ﷺ had died. They thought that he would keep alive to guide them all the way.

Fighting Against Apostates

Upon knowing of the death of the Prophet ﷺ, some Arabs reverted back to paganism. Abu Bakr ؓ, the first Caliph, did not hesitate to take action against them. He was encouraged by many of the Prophet's Companions, like Jabir ؓ, to be firm against the apostates. So the